Setting up of Overseas Relay Stations of AIR

*145. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to set up four overseas relay stations of All India Radio; and

(b) whether the plan now has been abandoned; and if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Price of Steel and Pig Iron

*146. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the price of steel and pig iron prevailing in the international markets as well as in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that steel prices in India were lower prior to 1974 as compared to prices in international markets;

(c) whether the same running custom rates are applicable to steel projects both under the Public and Private Sectors; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the uniform interest charges are also applicable to public sector units, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) It would not be realistic to compare the Indian prices with those prevailing in the international markets as the latter are often kept lower than domestic prices in the countries of origin in order to support exports. The domestic prices of Indian steel net of taxes and levies is comparable with domestic prices in countries like Japan, U.S.A. and EEC countries. A statement indicating the Indian domestic prices and the international prices as prevalent in July 1988 is annexed. (*See* Appendix CXLVII, Annexure No. 50) As regards pig iron international prices estimated on FOB basis are lower than indigenous prices.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The customs duty rates for Project imports are the same for public sector units as well as the Private sector. The rates applicable for the year 1988-89 are 90 per cent.

(d) Yes, Sir. The applicable rate of interest against term lending by the financial institutions is 14 per cent per annum in respect of both public and private sectors.

States covered by Crop Insurance Scheme

*147. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:

SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the States and Union Territories have been covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme; and

(b) if so, the amount disbursed so far State-wise for the last Kharif Crop?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No, Sir. The Scheme has been in operation in all States except States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and Union Territories of Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep.

(b) The amount disbursed so far towards claims for Kharif 1987, Statewise is as follows:—

Assam	— Rs.	0.90 lakhs
Bihar	— Rs.	386.72 ,,
Kerala	— Rs.	10.44 ,,
Uttar Pradesh	— Rs.	299.50 ,,
West Bengal	— Rs.	195.70 ,,
	Rs.	893.26 ,,

Second Channel of Doordarshan

*148. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) The names of Doordarshan Kendras in the country presently having second channel;

(b) the dates on which the second channel was started;

(c) the number of Doordarshan Kendras where second channel is likely to be started during the current plan period;

(d) how many State Governments have demanded second channel for regional programmes and implementation of State policies; and

(e) what are the details of their demands and steps taken therefore?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) to (e) The Second Channel service has been introduced from Doordarshan Kendras at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras with effect from the date indicated against each:—

Delhi—17-9-1984
Bombay—1-5-1985
Calcutta—19-11-1987
Madras—1-7-1988

There is no scheme in the Seventh Plan of Doordarshan to introduce second channel TV service from any other centre.

Requests have been received from time to time from the State Governments of Sikkim, Tripura, Assam, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and West Bengal for seting up of second channel TV service of Doordarshan to be used exclusively by the State Governments. However, the operation and maintenance of broadcasting network in the country is a responsibility assigned under the Constitution to the Central Government. The Government is, therefore, firmly of the view that this position needs to be maintained as the provision was so incorporated by the framers of the Constitution in their wisdom.

Survey conducted by the Mineral Exploration Corporation

*152. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mineral Exploration Corporation had undertaken drilling/mining survey works in some States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of such States; and

(c) whether any such survey was undertaken by the Corporation in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) has undertaken Drilling/Mining and survey work for various minerals during the last three years in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) On behalf of Neyveli Lignite Corporation MECL has been conducting detailed exploration in Tamil Nadu for Lignite in Neyveli Mines Blocks I, II and III as also in South Vellar, Behur basin and